

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-12 (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) A temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device, comprising:
a backing;
a thermochromic layer applied to said backing for indicating a predetermined desired temperature; and
said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer.
14. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said transparent layer formed from a casting compound.
15. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 14, including said casting compound formed from a plastic room temperature curable material.
16. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 14, including said casting compound is a polyurethane material.
17. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 14, including said casting compound formed from a vacuum treated material which is then cured.

18. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said backing formed from an aluminum metal plate.
19. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 14, including said backing enclosed between said casting compound and a film.
20. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said backing embedded in a backing element and covered by said transparent layer.
21. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 19, including said film printed on the side facing said casting compound.
22. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 19, including a preferred orientation mark for mounting said element in the refrigeration device.
23. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said thermochromic layer provided with an orientation mark discernible at room temperature.
24. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 23, including a complementary mark complementary to said orientation mark of said thermochromic layer.
25. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration device, comprising:
a temperature-indicating element;
said temperature-indicating element including a backing;

a thermochromic layer applied to said backing, said thermochromic layer including thermochromic pigment elements that change color at about +4° C for visually indicating a predetermined desired temperature; and said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer formed from a casting compound.

26. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including said backing formed from an aluminum metal plate.
27. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including said backing enclosed between said casting compound and a film.
28. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including a preferred orientation mark for mounting said element in the refrigeration device.
29. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 28, including said thermochromic layer provided with an orientation mark discernible at room temperature.
30. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 29, including said film provided with a complementary mark complementary to said orientation mark of said thermochromic layer.
31. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including a temperature zone in the refrigeration device and said temperature-indicating element located in said temperature zone backing for indicating said predetermined desired temperature in said temperature zone.

32. (Previously Presented) A temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device, comprising:
- a backing;
 - a thermochromic layer applied to said backing, said thermochromic layer having a pigment of a given color and changing to a pigment of a different color when the refrigeration device passes below a predetermined desired temperature;
 - said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer; and
 - an indicator display including a contrast indication element for indicating that the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature, said contrast indication element being disposed relative to said thermochromic layer such that said contrast indication element visually contrasts with the pigment of the different color and the extent of the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the different color being such that this visual contrast with the pigment of the different color is greater than a visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the given color, whereby a user can perceive via the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the different color that the temperature of the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature.
33. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device according to claim 32, wherein the extent of the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the different color is such that said contrast indication element is visually perceptible when the temperature of the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature and the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the given color, which

is the respective pigment color of said thermochromic backing when the temperature of the refrigeration device is above said predetermined desired temperature, is so insignificant that said contrast indication element is substantially visually imperceptible.

34. (New) A temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device, comprising:
- a backing having an adhesive material applied thereto for mounting said temperature-indicating device at a single predetermined location in a food compartment of a refrigeration device;
 - a thermochromic layer applied to said backing and disposed between said backing and a transparent protective layer for indicating a plurality of predetermined food-based threshold temperature values; and
 - a covering member fitted over said thermochromic layer having a plurality of openings formed therein disposed at predetermined locations to be in registry with predetermined threshold temperature value indications along said thermochromic layer, said openings being shaped to resemble food items associated with said food-based threshold temperature values.